

Keep America Connected!

National Campaign for Affordable Telecommunications

African Methodist
Episcopal Church
AI Chem
Alliance for Public Technology
Alpha Kappa Alpha
Alpha One
American Agri-Women
American Association for Adult
and Continuing Education
American Beekeeping Federation
American Coalition for Ethanol
Association for Gerontology and
Human Development at
Historically Black Colleges and
Universities
Campaign for Telecommunications
Access
Central Alabama Health
Alliance, Inc.
Communications Workers
of America
Delta Waterfowl Foundation, Inc.
Federation of Southern
Cooperatives Land
Assistance Fund
Florida Association for the Deaf
Green County Democrat
Henry A. Wallace Institute for
Alternative Agriculture
MCIL Resources for
Independent Living
Mid-America International Agri-
Trade Council
Missouri Center on Minority Health
and Aging
National Agricultural Aviation
Association
National Association of
Commissions for Women
National Association of
Development Organizations
National Black Caucus of
State Legislators
National Council of
Senior Citizens
National Hispanic Council
on Aging
National Hispanic Law
Enforcement Association
The National Trust
National Latino
Telecommunications Taskforce
Northern Virginia Resource
Center for Deaf and Hard of
Hearing Persons
Palm Beach County Association of
the Deaf, Inc.
Personal Family
Service Corporation
Presidents Club for
Telecommunications Justice
Southern United States Trade
Association
United Homeowners Association
United Seniors
Health Cooperative
United States Durum
Growers Association
United States Telephone
Association
Universal Service Alliance
Virginia Public Interest Coalition
Wheat Quality Council
Women Involved in
Farm Economics
Women of Distinction
World Institute on Disability
Youth Entrepreneurial
Leadership Institute

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OCT 15 1998

October 15, 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Commissioner Roman Salas
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Room 222
Washington, DC 20554

Docket 98-141

Dear Commissioner Salas:

Enclosed are the original and twelve copies of our letter to The
Honorable William Kennard in response to the initial filing of SBC and
Ameritech, Docket 98-141.

In addition, we are enclosing a stamp and return copy of the same
letter.

Sincerely,

Angela Ledford
Executive Director

Enclosures

No. of Copies rec'd 0+12
List ABCDE

Angela Ledford
Executive Director

Keep America Connected!

P.O. Box 27911
Washington, DC 20005



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fax: 202-408-1134

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

October 15, 1998

Hon. William Kennard, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: CC Docket No. 98-141

Dear Commissioner Kennard,

We have reviewed the initial SBC/Ameritech filing and are encouraged by their commitment to compete for residential customers outside their combined regions. We believe that their commitment to expand services to residential customers will address many concerns regarding the benefits of this merger to consumers.

Keep America Connected¹ has commented in other proceedings with the Commission, expressing its concern that telecommunications service providers have demonstrated a pattern of serving only the most lucrative, high-volume business customers. The emphasis placed by these providers on serving the high-volume business customer denies many residential customers the benefits of competition and advanced telecommunications services. This is particularly true in rural and inner-city areas where such services are desperately needed.

Through this merger the combined companies will initiate a new strategy called the "National-Local Strategy." This strategy involves the facilities-based entry by the combined company into each of the top 30 major

¹ Keep America Connected is a diverse coalition of 45 organizations representing consumers, senior citizens, people with disabilities, rural citizens, and labor that work with local telephone companies to advance policies that ensure affordable access to modern telecommunications services. Because of the wide range of policy issues of concern to Keep America Connected, coalition positions may not always reflect the views of individual members on all issues.

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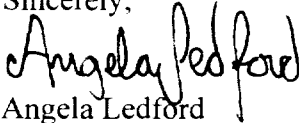
Hon. William Kennard, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
October 15, 1998
Page 2

U.S. markets outside of its service area. Through this initiative the company is committed to provide a full range of local, long distance, data, and other services to business and residential customers. We are encouraged by their commitment to simultaneously "deploy an additional 80 switches in the 30 out-of-region markets to serve residential and small business customers." We believe this commitment is a positive step in the right direction. No other company, to this point, has made a comparable commitment to compete for residential customers.

The ability to market bundled services is, of course, something that all providers would like to have. More important, however, is the ability of consumers to bundle their telecommunications dollars empowering them in the marketplace. We are hopeful that the firm's commitment to provide a full range of services to residential customers will expand the options available to consumers for obtaining bundled services. Through this commitment, consumers will enjoy the cost savings and convenience of one-stop telecommunications services shopping.

As long as the interests of residential customers, including rural and inner-city customers, continue to be met, we see real benefits for consumers arising from the merger of SBC and Ameritech.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angela Ledford". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Angela Ledford
Executive Director